

Executive Committee Conference Call
March 28, 2008

Present:	Eddy Bresnitz	Perry Smith	Mel Kohn
	John Horan	Martha Stanbury	Gail Hansen
	Tom Safraneck	Patrick McConnon	Lakesha Robinson
	Bob Harrison	Michael Landen	Beverly Christner
	Steven Macdonald	Richard Hopkins	

Agenda

EC Minutes

The February Executive Committee Conference Call minutes were approved.

McDonald/Hopkins Briefing on SRCA

General Comments Included:

- Results query webpage on CSTE website
- Use by CDC in MMWR tables
- Relationship of SRCA to “Knowledge base for State-reportable and Nationally-notifiable Conditions (KSNC)”

Comments on 2008 Survey Included:

- Timeline for 2008, including piloting
- How the 2007 results will be shown on the 2008 form as editable defaults
- New editable auto-fill function for subset conditions
- Changes in column head [from “Outbreak Reporting” to Outbreak-only” and from “Individual Cases Reporting” to “Work-only”, in that order]
- Possible new column-set for “All reporters” for those jurisdictions which do not have rules that differentiate clinician from lab from hospital
- Changes in terms [e.g., Streptococcus pneumonia IPD Non-Drug Resistant in Children < Years, Occupational illness]
- Allowing and encouraging respondents to add new rows for state-reportable conditions which are not included
- Automated feedback

Discussion of Proposed By-Law Changes

Status Report

- Bob Harrison has incorporated the recommendations from the January Executive Committee and Retreat meetings.
- The edits to the documents are indicated by track changes.
- Mel has agreed to combine the By-Laws and the Constitution.

Action Items:

- The Executive Committee is to review the edits to the documents.
- Mel will have the combined document for review this week.

- A conference call will be scheduled in two weeks to approve the proposed changes to the By-Laws and Constitution.

Health Alert/bypass reporting

Issue was raised with CDC about giving instructions through the Health Alert Network to practitioners to report Ricin events directly to CDC. Several CSTE members had email discussion and called it to Pats attention that CDC is bypassing the State level on this issue.

Action Item:

- Pat McConnon will make a telephone call to CDC/HAN and address this oversight.

Lyme Case Definition-Guidance/Strategy for consideration of proposed changes

Eddy had a conversation with Matt Cartter that a couple of states are concerned with the changes in the Lyme Case Definition position statement. It is reducing their number of cases reported in states. Matt was feeling pressure to some extent about raising this issue again for discussion regarding possible revision of the position statement.

Action Items:

- The Executive Committee agreed to keep the Lyme position statement unchanged for a year and to be evaluated again, and not to rule out possible changes in the future.
- Eddy will contact Matt Cartter and inform him of the Executive Committee decision.

Top Secret Clearance

CDC is coordinating with the Department of Homeland Security Department on a new project to get specific people at state level to receive top secret clearance. There is a promise to provide a streamlined process for getting applications expedited.

Action Item:

- CSTE will send a letter to State Epidemiologists informing them that DHS will be in contact with them in a couple of weeks regarding the new project.

BioSurveillance Advisory Committee/Workgroup

- CSTE has nominated Jeff Engel to the BioSurveillance Advisory Committee
- CSTE has three members who are on the BioSurveillance Advisory Workgroup: Richard Hopkins, Susan Lance and Henry Anderson.

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Distribution of Chronic Disease Capacity Assessment

The mode of Distribution

- The electronic one page summaries that will be forward to state epidemiologists, chronic disease epidemiologists, state chronic disease program directors and deputy state health officers.
- Previous agreed mode of distribution: CSTE executive office would send these electronically to the headquarters of ASTHO, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors and from their offices each individual states report will be forward to the state epidemiologists, deputy state health officers and state chronic disease program directors.
- New Mode of Distribution: CSTE Executive office will coordinate the process and attach a short cover note from ASTHO, NACDD for a mailing that will go electronically to State Epidemiologists requesting that the state epi forward the survey results to their chronic disease epidemiologists, state chronic disease program directors and deputy state health officers.

Action Items

- The Executive Committee agreed to use the new mode of distribution for the Chronic Disease Capacity Assessment.

Update on FERPA

During the conference the FERPA conference call James Hodge discussed the approached on how to move forward on the proposed FERPA Legislation. James Hodge felt that some of their concerns were addressed and that it will be a quick legislation fix and will address the need for public health office to access public school records related to public health investigation. There is a consensus with the group in putting document materials together to present to legislators and James is putting some draft language together to agree to move forward on FERPA. The group is trying to build a stronger broad base coalition with organizations who are supportive of a change to the current FERPA and to move forward to fix FERPA in the new administration. The group left a call with ASTHO to put together a one page document to summarize the issue that they can use.

Action Items:

- CSTE will possibly survey State Epidemiologists on FERPA. Lisa Dwyer will get information from ASTHO.

Update Annual Conference

Planning Committee is in the home stretch

- The Speakers, Moderators letters of invite have been mailed.
- The Agenda final deadline is April 4.
- All the plenary sessions have been filled except Mondays. An invitation to Tom Friedan has been mailed.
- Options if Tom Friedan decline: Eugene Gangarosa, Emory, Mick Edmonds VA, Sherrie Barron NIOSH and Rick Besser CDC

- The planning committee is now working with Kris Smith on the media piece promotion.

Draft Dues Increase Communication

The proposed draft dues increase email is below:

Dear (insert member first name),

The CSTE Executive Committee is proposing an increase in both individual and state dues starting in the 2009 calendar year. The proposals are as follows and will be brought for discussion and vote at the 2008 Business Meeting on Thursday, June 12 in Denver, Colorado:

State Dues Proposal

Categories	Current	2009
State Dues: Tier 1 – Territories	\$550	\$750
State Dues: Tier 2 – States with Populations Less than 1 Million	\$800	\$1,100
State Dues: Tier 3 – States with Populations 1 to 4 Million	\$850	\$1,200
States Dues: Tier 4 – States with Populations 4 to 6 Million	\$1,250	\$1,750
States Dues: Tier 5 – States with Populations More than 6 Million	\$1,500	\$2,100

Individual Dues Proposal

Membership Categories	Current	2009
Individual Dues: Active	\$40	\$50
Individual Dues: Associate	\$40	\$50
Individual Dues: Student	\$25	\$30

The proposed State and individual dues increase would help fiscally support the work done by the CSTE National Office, including the full cost of providing a Membership Services Coordinator and part time Washington Liaison.

CSTE strives to exceed our member's expectations through our attention to Best Practices, Public Health Policy, Training, Consultant, Public Health Law, National Disease Reporting, and Integrated Surveillance.

Some of the benefits of Membership are:

- Online 24 hour, Real-Time Public Health News Articles
- Online *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*
- Subscription to *Public Health Reports*
- CSTE Quarterly Newsletter which is a professional association newsletter
- "Washington Report" which is a bi-monthly report on federal legislation and regulations affecting public health
- Access to the secure Members Only sections of the CSTE Website
- Redesign and implementation of new more user friendly CSTE Website with increase functionality
- 2008 Annual Conference -Denver discounts for registration and several functions
- Opportunity to participate in influencing important current public health issues
- Opportunities to lead and participate in consultancies, workgroups, and teams
- Leadership opportunities as Liaison to other associations and advisory committees
- Training leadership opportunities through the Public Health Leadership Institute

Some of the benefits to States and Members through recent National Office accomplishments are:

- Development of Applied Epidemiology Competencies
- Planned and Administered National Avian Influenza Rapid Response Trainings
- Placed and supported 31 CSTE Fellows in 24 states, and NYC
- In response to members suggestions, Hosted the Workforce Summit II and Organizational Retreat with defined Action Items
- Evaluated and mapped Applied Epidemiology Competencies to EIS and CDC/CSTE Fellowship Programs
- Conducted Legal Analysis of Research vs. Practice, efforts to federalize the National Reporting System and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Provided support for short term technical consultations (Influenza) in Southeast Asia and Africa
- Awarded small grants to states to implement training courses around outbreak investigations/tabletop
- Designed and completed nationwide surveys on:
 - Nationwide HIV/AIDS Surveillance Capacity
 - Assessing Need for Outbreak Management System
 - Assessment of Proposed Funding Reductions on West Niles Virus Surveillance Capacity in States
 - State Reportable Conditions Assessment

Recent advocacy work by Washington Liaison on behalf of states and territories:

- Integrated CSTE Surveillance Bill securing legislative sponsors and support from other Public Health organizations
- Securing strengthened report language for overseas screening and treatment for TB
- Securing funding for Applied Epidemiology Fellowship Program

- Worked closely with other public health organizations to reinstate and securing some fund increases Public Health Programs through Appropriations Bills
- Work on behalf of CSTE and NASPHV regarding issue lifting ban on sale of pet turtles
- Provide expert testimony at Congressional Hearing
- Coordinate visits with Congressional representatives and OMB for Executive Committee and Policy Committee members
- Draft legislative priorities for Appropriations consideration

We appreciate your continued support of CSTE. Questions or comments regarding the proposal may be emailed to me directly at pmccannon@cste.org.

Sincerely,

Patrick McConnon, MPH
Executive Director

Action Item:

- Executive Committee is to review email and forward comments to Pat.

Retreat Update

- CSTE has developed a Blog in reference to the CSTE Retreat Report that Kris Moore prepared. The report will be posted to the website where members can comment.
- CSTE has developed a Large City and Urban Epidemiologists Point of Contact List. The POC list has been forward to the City epidemiologists for their approval. The list will be posted on CSTE website.
- Marketing Email communications have been forward to membership for the Local Epidemiologist reception.
- The State Delegate Caucus rooms are filling up.

Update on Status of the Surveillance Bill

The comments from CDC and requested responses have been turned over to Marcia. She is preparing the new language based on the comments and then will present the document to Senator Hagel.